

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A poly(arylene ether) composition comprising a poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups and a component selected from the group consisting of impact modifier, ~~alkenyl aromatic polymer, rubber modified poly(alkenyl aromatic) resin,~~ reinforcing filler, flame retardant and combinations of two or more of the foregoing wherein the poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups is present in an amount greater than 15 weight percent based on the total weight of the composition.

2. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the poly(arylene ether) has an intrinsic viscosity of 0.10 to about 0.60 deciliters per gram as measured in chloroform at 25°C.

3. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the impact modifier is styrene-(ethylene-butylene)-styrene.

4. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the impact modifier is at least partially hydrogenated.

5. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 ~~further comprising~~wherein the poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups is produced by reacting a poly(arylene ether) and a capping agent selected from the group consisting of salicylic acid ester, anthranilic acid ester and derivatives thereof.

6. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the impact modifier is an unsaturated block copolymer and the composition further comprises anti-oxidant.

7. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the component is a ~~combination of alkenyl aromatic polymer and hydrogenated impact modifier~~ and the composition further comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

8. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the reinforcing filler is glass fiber.

9. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the impact modifier is present in an amount of about 4 to about 15 weight percent, based on the entire weight of the composition.

10. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 further comprising an alkenyl aromatic polymer wherein the alkenyl aromatic polymer is present in an amount of about 1 to about 80 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

11. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 1, further comprising a rubber-modified poly(alkenyl aromatic) resin wherein the rubber-modified poly(alkenyl aromatic) resin is present in an amount of about 1 to about 80 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the flame retardant is present in an amount of about 2 to about 40 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A method of making a poly(arylene ether) composition comprising blending a mixture comprising poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups and a component selected from the group consisting of impact modifier, ~~alkenyl aromatic polymers, rubber-modified poly(alkenyl aromatic) resin,~~ reinforcing filler, flame retardant and combinations of two or more of the foregoing wherein the poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups is present in an amount greater than 15 weight percent based on the total weight of the composition.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the mixture further comprises a capping agent.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein blending is melt blending.

17. (Original) A method of making a poly(arylene ether) composition comprising melt blending a poly(arylene ether) with one or more capping agents selected from the group consisting of salicylic acid ester, anthranilic acid ester and derivatives thereof and a component selected

from the group consisting of impact modifier, alkenyl aromatic polymers, rubber-modified poly(alkenyl aromatic) resin, reinforcing filler, flame retardant and combinations of two or more of the foregoing wherein the poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups is present in an amount greater than 15 weight percent based on the total weight of the composition.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~16~~ 17 wherein the capping agent is added downstream of the poly(arylene ether).

19. (Currently amended) A poly(arylene ether) composition consisting essentially of a poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups, and a component selected from the group consisting of a hydrogenated impact modifier, ~~alkenyl aromatic polymer~~, reinforcing filler, flame retardant and combinations of two or more of the foregoing.

20. (New) A poly(arylene ether) composition comprising a poly(arylene ether) having aromatic ester end groups, an impact modifier, and an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

21. (New) The poly(arylene ether) composition of Claim 20 further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of reinforcing filler, flame retardant and combinations thereof.